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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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DEPT PASS OTHER AF POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652:J/A

TAGS: PFOR OAU XA

SUBJ: POLTICS TAKES FRONT SEAT AS OAU CONCIL OF MINISTERS OPENS

SUMMARY: OAU'S TWENTY-SIXTY ORDINARY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
CONVENED IN ADDIS ON FEB 23. ETHIOPIAN CHIEF OF STATE
GAVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTING EPMG'S CONCERN WITH
DJIBOUTI PROBLEM AND ITS HOPE THAT OAU WILL DEAL CON-
STRUCTIVELY WITH IT. HE ALSO TOUCHED ON ANGOLA EXPRESSING
SATISFACTION WITH MPLA'S VICTORY AND ON SPANISH SAHARA THUS
STRESSING THE HIGHLY POLITICAL CONTENT ANTICIPATED FOR THIS
"BUDGETARY SESSION." OTHER SPEAKERS (LIBYA, TANZANIA,
CONGO, ANGOLA AND UGANDA) THEN RESPONDED, STRESSING THEIR
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RESPECTIVE PRFXCCUPATIONS VIZ. AFFRO-ARAB COOPERATION,
THE SANCTITY OF AFRICAN BOUNDARIES, THE HOSTILITY OF

NEIGHBORS, AND THE PROGRESS OF DECOLONIZATION. NEW
OFFICERS WERE THEN ELECTED. END SUMMARY

1. THE 26TH ORDINARY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM)
OPENED IN ADDIS FEB 23. ALTHOUGH THIS CM IS TRADITIONALLY
DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO OAU BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
AFFAIRS, THE OPENING SPEECHES STRESSED POLITICAL SUBJECTS.

2. ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE BG TEFERI BANTE WELCOMED THE
OAU DELEGATES. HE OMITTED HIS USUAL EXPLANATION AND DEFENSE
OF THE ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, BUT DEDICATED
ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF HIS SPEECH TO DJIBOUTI AND THE
TFAI. (ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HEAVILY STRESSING HIS POINTS ON
THIS SUBJECT IN EDITORIALS AND SIDE ARTICLES.) HE CALLED
FOR DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE AND SAID THAT THE OAU AND
PARTICULARLY TFAI'S NEIGHBOR (READ: SOMALIA) SHOULD GIVE
DJIBOUTI EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES OF ITS INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. TEFERI POINTED OUT THAT DJIBOUTI'S
POLITICAL LEADERS HAD HESITATED TO PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE
INDEPENDENCE FOR FEAR OF ANNEXATION BY THEIR LARGER
NEIGHBORS BUT THIS IS NOT LONGER TRUE. ALL NOW AGREE ON
INDEPENDENCE. OAU SHOULD ENCOURAGE THESE LEADERS TO AGREE
ON PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT SOONEST. TEFERI, LIKE
THE OTHER OPENING DAY SPEAKERS, WELCOMED ANGOLA'S MPLA
DEL HEADED BY FONMIN DOS SANTOS. TEFERI EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH FREEDOMS PROGRESS DEEP INTO SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND EXPECTATION IT WOULD ADVANCE IN ZIMBABWE AND
NAMIBIA. HE MOURNED THE DEATH OF NIGERIAN PRESIDENT
MURTALA MOHAMMED. ON WESTERN SAHARA HE DEPLORED THE NEED-
LESS SHEDDING OF AFRICAN BLOOD, WARNED THAT SITUATION BE-
COMING INCREASINGLY THREATENING AND SAID THAT ONLY VALID
SOLUTION IS ONE BASED ON INTERESTS OF SAHARANS AS WELL AS
AREA STATES -- THUS NEATLY STRADDLING THE ISSUES.

3. LIBYAN UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MOFA, ALI
TRIKI, TANZANIAN FONMIN IBRAHIM KADUMA, AND CONGOLESE
FONMIN THEOPHILE OBENGA REPLIED TO TEFERI'S SPEECH.
TRIKI'S SPEECH CONTAINED THE EXPECTED DENUNCIATION OF
ISRAEL AND "RACIST ZIONISM," AND THE CHARGE THAT "RACIST
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IMPERIALISM" HAD MANEUVERED SOME AFRICANS TO FIGHT AGAINST
THEIR BROTHERS IN ANGOLA. TRIKI, REPRESENTING THE OAU'S
SECOND LARGEST FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR, ALSO STATED THAT
AFRO-ARAB ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS ON THE AGENDA, BEING
STUDIED AND, HE HOPED, WOULD SOON BE IMPLEMENTED.

4. IN AN UNSTATED REFERENCE TO UGANDA PRESIDENT AMIN'S
CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBORING STATES, KADUMA RE-
CALLED THAT TANAZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE WAS ONE OF THE
PRINCIPAL ADVOCATES IN CAIRO IN 1966 FOR RESPECT OF THE

INHERITED COLONIAL BOUNDARIES OF AFRICA. THIS, HADUMA SAID, WAS THE SINE QUA NON OF AFRICAN UNITY. LIKE THE OTHER SPEAKERS, OBENGA WELCOMED ANGOLA UNDER THE MPLA. THE MPLA'S VICTORY, HE SAID WAS A VICTORY FOR AFRICA AND ITS ACCESSION TO OAU MEMBERSHIP A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY FOR THE FORCES OF PROGRESS.

5. ANGOLA DEL HEAD DOS SANTOS THEN SPOKE. HE CRITICIZED "SOME OAU MEMBERS" WHO DOUBTED THE MPLA DURING THE JANUARY EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON ANGOLA. TWO COUNTRIES, HE SAID, HAVE INVADDED ANGOLA WITH REGULAR TROOPS. ONE WAS SOUTH AFRICA. THEN, DOS SANTOS CALLED FOR THE OAU TO INVESTIGATE THE "ZAIRE QUESTION." THE OAU MUST COMBAT THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES, HE SAID. AS FOR ZAIRE, IT HAS "MOBILIZED ITS RE-SOURCES AND MILITARY POWER TO PARALYZE OUR ECONOMY," AND SUPPORTED "AGGRESSION AND PIRACY." DOS SANTOS STATED THAT ANGOLA WOULD NEVER ALLOW FOREIGN BASES ON ITS TERRITORY OR JOIN "FOREIGN BLOCS." HE THEN THANKED THE USSR AND CUBA FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING ANGOLA "RID AFRICA OF CONOLIALISM." ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DELS, ESPECIALLY GHANA AND GUINEA, WERE NOISILY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER DOS SANTOS'S SPEECH, SEVERAL OTHER DELS GREETED HIS ATTACK ON A BROTHER STATE WITH COLD SILENCE.

6. UGANDA'S PAUL ETIANG, THE CM'S OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, GAVE A REASONED CONCLUDING SPEECH. HE COMMENDED THE BRITISH FOR MOVING AHEAD ON INDEPENENCE FOR THE SEYCHELLES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TWO RIVAL POLITICAL PARTIES, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BRITISH NAVAL FORCES WOULD LEAVE THE AREA SO AS TO HELP CREATE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN A "ZONE OF PEACE." WHILE CRITICAL OF FRANCE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS ROLE IN THE COMORO ISLANDS WHERE IT IS "ILLEGALLY CONDUCTING A REFERNDUM IN A SOVEREIGN STATES," ETIANG SAID THAT OAU CHAIRMAN AMIN HAD SPOKEN WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS ABOUT THE TFAI. AMIN, HE SAID, HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED UPON NEIGHBORING STATES TO FACILITATE CONSULTATIONS IN THE TFAI. AMIN, ETIANG SAID, WILL SOON INFORM FELLOW AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ABOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRENCH. ETIANG CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR ALL OAU MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR ANNUAL DUES.

7. IN CLOSED SESSION, THE CM THEN ELECTED FONMIN CECIL DENNIS (LIBERIA) TO BE THE CURRENT CM CHAIRMAN. THE FONMINS OF SUDAN, TANZANIA AND THE COMORS WERE ELECTED FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD VICE CHAIRMEN, RESPECTIVELY. GUINEA WAS ELECTED RAPPORTEUR.

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HUMMEL

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